

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that Claims 1, 3-14, 16-38, 41, and 42 are allowed. By the amendments indicated herein, Claim 39 has been amended to contain limitations similar to those in the allowed claims. Specifically, currently amended Claim 39 recites: (1) the identification of the requesting party as an established trading partner of the party providing the web service; (2) specifying trader partner information that needs to be included in corresponding web service messages through a publicly-available web service description; and (3) retrieving information about pre-established agreements that govern business transactions between the requesting party and the party providing the web service, based on trading partner information that is included in the request message. None of these limitations are found in or suggested by Mikurak (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0064351; hereinafter "*Mikurak*"), which the Examiner cited as prior art in rejecting Claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Therefore, Claim 39 is patentable over *Mikurak*.

Claim 40 depends from Claim 39 and is also patentable over *Mikurak* for the same reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 39 and 40 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 3-14, and 16-42 is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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